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teuch are discussed, after which the Biblical material is analyzed and the question of its historicity dealt with in such a way as to give the student a clear grasp both of the contents of the Hexateuch and its probable historical value. In a similar way the history and literature of the period of the Judges, the United Kingdom, the Divided Kingdom, the Exile, and the Persian and Greek periods are treated. This method necessarily involves more or less of repetition. The historical writings, for instance, are considered both in connection with the period with which they deal and the period from which they emanated. The uncertainty also concerning the date of the Psalms and Proverbs makes it necessary to consider these books in several different periods. But this repetition is no drawback from the pedagogical point of view. It rather enhances the value of the work as a text-book.

The position of the authors is in the main that represented by Hastings' *Dictionary of the Bible*. It is moderately conservative without being dogmatic in its conclusions. Divergent views are freely recorded, and the reader is furnished with extensive references to current English Old Testament literature. No claim to originality is made. The authors' purpose is "to incorporate and make available the results of the best modern scholarship in such form as, it is hoped, will be helpful to intelligent Old Testament study," and in this aim they have admirably succeeded. The book is a painstaking, thorough, and reliable work, the outcome of many years of labor and experience. In its method of treatment and to some extent in its contents it is a valuable supplement to the other Old Testament Introductions, and as a student's manual it has distinct advantages of its own.

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HISTORY OF THE SPANISH CONQUEST OF YUCATAN AND OF THE ITZAS.

PHILIP AINSWORTH MEANS. Papers of the Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology, Harvard University. Vol. VII. Cambridge. 1917. Pp. xv, 206. Plates 1-6.

In the great collection of photographic copies of manuscripts relating to Central America, given to the Peabody Museum by Mr. Charles P. Bowditch, is an account of the missionary Avendaño's journey to Peten in northern Guatemala, at the end of the seventeenth century. Taking this unpublished journal (which had been translated by Mr. Bowditch and Señor Rivera) as a foundation, the author has added data derived from an unpublished account by Cano (in

the possession of the University of Pennsylvania) and other sources, and written an account of the progress of the Spanish conquest of Yucatan and the adjacent region from its beginning in 1517 to the complete subjection of the Itzas of Peten in 1696. A vocabulary of the Itza dialect, a list of the early maps of Yucatan, and a bibliography are given in appendices.

A brief introductory chapter presents an outline of the pre-Columbian history of the Maya people, of whom the Itzas were a branch. In this Mr. Means follows Morley's chronology. The story of the conquest itself begins with Cortez's famous overland expedition to Honduras in 1524, in which Europeans for the first time penetrated to Peten. Little came of this early contact, however, and for years the attention of the Spaniards was concentrated on northern Yucatan. About the beginning of the seventeenth century interest was again awakened in the Itza country, and the first missionaries penetrated to Peten. After a brief period of apparent success for their efforts, the Itzas revolted and apostatized, and nearly eighty years then passed before the final subjection of this warlike group.

The account of Avendaño deals with the period just prior to this final pacification, and his two *entradas* are given at considerable length. The first attempt of the intrepid missionary failed, but on the second he succeeded in reaching Peten, only to be obliged to flee for his life on account of the treachery of the people. After terrible privations, during which he almost perished of starvation, he at last returned to Merida in safety. Ursua, the governor of Yucatan, then determined to put an end to the unbearable situation, and led a well-equipped force to Peten, where he decisively defeated the Itzas.

Such in outline is the story told by Mr. Means, largely in the words of eye-witnesses. His work seems to have been carefully done, but the use of the term "race" in speaking of the Itzas and Mayas as "two separate races," is inexcusable; and the suggestion of plagiarism on the part of Villagutierre put forward in the Introduction seems to rest on rather slender evidence. In correlating the various accounts of the conquest and presenting the whole story in connected form, Mr. Means has done Maya students a real service. Yet, after all, the chief value of his paper lies in making accessible the hitherto unpublished journals of Avenaño.

ROLAND B. DIXON.